

**Remarks/Arguments:**

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed on July 7, 2008.

Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended to be clearer.

Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being as being anticipated by Narin et al., (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0158709) in view of Microsoft Windows Media Player.

Wolfram MathLM describes a system where a group of users share licenses from a central location. A restriction script is used by a system administrator to allow or delay certain machines from having access to the licenses at the central location. Wolfram MathLM technically, doesn't lock a license to a specific machine, but the restriction script is used to control what machines have access to a pool of licenses.

Claims 1, 11 and 21 include the feature that "the access rules are used to determine whether to allow the member to lock the software associated with the one of the software licenses to a new IP address; and in response to member input, locking the software associated with the one of the software licenses to the new IP address". This is different than in the systems of the prior art.

Wolfram MathLM only envisions that the administrator, through the restriction scripts, be able to control which machines can access a license. Wolfram MathLM does not disclose the delegation of the right to change the IP lock to a user (by using an access rule).

The system of embodiments of the claims of the present invention can allow the administrator to allow certain trusted group members to change the IP lock, while other group members are restricted from doing so.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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